

Neighborhood News

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Communities Celebrate Grand Opening of Neighborhood Centers

Neighborhood Associations will run facility
By Carolina Camarena
Neighborhood Newsletter Staff

Councilmember Forrest Williams, the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, Oak Grove School District and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services joined the Edenvale and Great Oaks neighborhoods in celebration of the grand opening of two new neighborhood centers on Saturday, January 22. The opening of these facilities topped the neighborhoods' list of priority projects as part of the City of San José Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI). "I congratulate Edenvale Roundtable Community Association (ERCA) and Great Oaks Neighborhood Association (GONA) for their dedication and perseverance to obtain neighborhood centers for their respective community," said Councilmember Forrest Williams.

The neighborhood associations will be responsible

for the operation of the two centers, handling everything from program planning and service delivery to room reservations and maintenance.

"I am ecstatic-it's hard to find the words to describe what this means to me and our neighborhood. It's been a long haul, but well worth all the time and effort," said Tami Moore, president of EGOPIC and ERCA. "This is one more thing we accomplished as a group, as a community, and it will open doors for other communities as well."

The two new neighborhood centers are a welcome addition for the community's diverse residents. On any given day, more than 100 families are served at the existing decade-old ERCA portable located on the grounds of Edenvale Elementary School. In the GONA neighborhood to the north, there is no existing center.

"For our community, the centers signify a home. A home that will provide so many more ways to further enrich our community," said Moore. GONA residents will be able to hold regular meetings in their own center while ERCA residents will feel comfortable, not cramped, when they visit their center for services. Services offered will include a food bank, a clothes closet, migrant education, and the community's own expanded holiday help program. The new GONA center will also provide a space for many different events and meetings, and the community hopes to provide a neighborhood computer center in the near future.

"Once open, we will partner with existing and new community groups to offer outreach services," said David Sommers, president of GONA. "In the evening, we plan to have *Continued on back page*

KKSF 103.7 Earth Day San José

On Saturday, April 23, 2005, from 12:00 Noon to 6:00 p.m. the Friends of San José transformed Plaza de Cesar Chavez into a fun-filled Earth Day Celebration. The festival featured a live Jazz Concert in conjunction with KKSF 103.7, the Smooth Jazz Station and the City of San José, Department of Parks, Recreation

and Neighborhood Services. A variety of delicious festival foods and wine along with several novelty, arts, crafts and environmentally themed activity and resource booths canvassed the plaza as part of the festivities for the thousands of visitors to enjoy. Families participated in interactive children's activities face

painting, arts, crafts and games. including the City's Mobile Recreation Program provided face painting, arts, crafts and games.



"Self-confidence and self-motivation are the two sides of a coin that are very essential for each and everyone to excel in the business of life."

-Copyright © 2005 Rami Ashok

National Recognition for PRNS Anti-Graffiti Program

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services takes pride in developing and maintaining successful programs. The Anti-Graffiti Program is a true story of success that was recently recognized by the National Recreation

and Park Association (NRPA) with the Pacific Southwest Regional Category I Agency Award. This national award recognizes a major program and/or agency for program excellence within the field of recreation and leisure services.

The mission of the Anti-Graffiti Program is to further beautify San José by preventing and removing graffiti through community involvement, eradication and enforcement.

An Adopt-A-Park Experience

My name is Alexandra Martino and I am in 6th grade and attend Holy Spirit School in Almaden. Here is an article I wrote, its about my troop and some other troops' experience when doing Adopt-A-Park.

On November 17th the Girl Scout Brownie Troops 224 and 771 along with my Cadette troop 890 helped clean up and

beautify Graystone Park. This was a really fun event for all of the Girl Scouts especially the brownies! We planted daffodils in the park while others were picking up trash with pick up devices and trash bags. Even though it was hard work we had lots of fun. We also earned community service hours which will add to the required hours for school for the

6th graders. I personally think that this was a worthwhile community event and I think the others did too! We even got tee-shirts that said "Adopt-A-Park" and "Volunteer" on the back which were really cool. It will be really amazing to see the park in spring with all the flowers blooming and we can be proud to say WE DID THAT!!!!

*Sincerely,
Alexandra Martino*

Dear Mrs. [Metha] Sizemore,

Thank you for taking your time for us! ...Thank you for taking your time to teach us about photography. ...Thank you! I got a digital camera for Christmas and now I'm taking pictures everywhere...

Thanks a lot for teaching us how to take pretty pictures!...Thank you so much for teaching us the importance of Photography!... Thank you for showing your pictures... Thank you for teaching me how to take photos. I learned a lot!! Thank you so much!



5th Grade Girl Scout Troop #1484



From the Director's Desk...

On March 16, 2005, Mayor Gonzales released his March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006. I believe it is fair to say that we as a Department, as well as the City in general, have a stake in the recommendations the Mayor outlined in his message. It is no secret that our City has faced the most difficult budget cycles in its history. This being said, our Department has followed suit with the Mayor's request to streamline services, keep vacancies frozen as a cost savings measure and implement program reductions where available, while continuing to think outside the box to come up with creative solutions to balance our Department's budget. We must continue to make smart decisions and serve the residents of San José to the best of our abilities.

The Mayor's Message also indicated that a portion of the shortfalls our City is facing stem from decisions made at the State level. However, the recent voter approved Proposition 1A provides constitutional protection, which limits the amount of local revenue that can be held at the State level. Nevertheless, we must be prepared to solve any unforeseen budget shortfalls. Refocusing the services we provide as a Department is one way to meet these difficulties head on. While facing this challenge, we should stand behind the Mayor's recommendations to protect our vital core services and streamline our operations in order to deliver our services at the level San José residents expect.

As we move forward, we hope the light at the end of the tunnel becomes visible. The Mayor touched on the fact that many economic indicators point towards an improvement in revenue over the next year, however, tough times still loom over our heads! I know we will survive and continue to do our best work. Thank you for your efforts.

Remember - my door is always open.

Sara L. Hensley, Director

**Parque de Padre Mateo
Sheedy Grand Opening**

Saturday, April 30, 2005

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*It's time for a little spring
cleaning! National River*

**Cleanup Day is on Satur-
day, May 21, 2005 from
9:00 a.m. to Noon.**

*Go out with your family and
friends and help cleanup one of
the 30 creeks in Santa Clara
County! For more information
on how to get involved, visit the
Creek Connections Action*

Group Web site

at www.cleanacreek.org,

*or call the Adopt-A-Park
staff at (408) 277-4477.*

**GET INVOLVED
and
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

Upcoming Events

May 2005

Canyon Creek Park Grand Opening

Saturday, May 7, 2005

10:00 a.m.

San Felipe Road and Larkspur

Canyon Road

Berryessa Art and Wine Festival

Saturday, May 7, 2005

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Penitencia Creek Park

Senior Fun Walk and Health Fair

Friday, May 13, 2005

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

San José History Park

Alamden Winery Park Youth Lot

Grand Opening

Saturday, May 14, 2005

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Almaden Winery

*Alamden Lake Park Bocce Ball and
Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*

Saturday, May 14, 2005

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Almaden Lake Park

Blackford SNI Celebration

Saturday, May 14, 2005

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Starbird

Bikes for Kids

Saturday, May 21, 2005

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lake Cunningham Park – Cypress
pavilion

Evergreen Fine Arts Festival

Saturday, May 28, 2005

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 29, 2005

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Evergreen Village Plaza

Mystery Kid at Play!



This little girl and her imaginary friend,
Sarsense, celebrates her fourth birthday with
some of her favorite musical instruments.
Who is she?

See page 9 for the answer.

Expansion at Evergreen Community Center

By Edwin Cortez and Carolina Camarena
Neighborhood Newsletter Staff

Children and parents find a haven at Evergreen Community Center's (ECC) "Kids Korner". Mayor Ron Gonzales, Councilmember Dave Cortese, and Sara Hensley joined the Evergreen community at the "Kids Korner" open house on Saturday, February 26. Close to 80 families enjoyed the free public event while their children created arts and crafts, had their face painted and joined in the other children's activities provided by ECC staff. The San José Police Department provided free fingerprinting to an endless number of children. The Police Department's Mounted Horse Unit, Fire Station's 2 and 11 provided a first hand look at the horses and units used in their every day jobs.

"As Evergreen continues to grow, it is important that our facilities grow too," said Cortese, adding, "these two new beautiful pre-school classrooms truly emphasize the commitment to quality for Evergreen youth."

"This is fantastic! This expansion is great for the kids, as well as the community," said Liz Gill, Evergreen community member.

During the Master Plan Amendment process in 2001, the community expressed the need for early childhood recreation programs. The new 2,400 square foot colorful building consists of two preschool rooms with restrooms and an adjoining sunny secure patio. Classes offered at "Kids Korner" emphasize early social development with family involvement. Classes such as "Times for Twos" allow children

to sing and dance, and have fun making arts and crafts with peers and their parents. Our Director is looking forward to taking advantage of this new building, and taking her two bundles of joy to early recreation childhood classes offered at "Kids Korner."

Toddlers will learn creative art while stirring up their imagination, and families will have fun together at classes designed for two to three year olds. Parents can

children of all ages and abilities.

The "Kids Korner" design philosophy created a building that is responsive to users while using a sustainable design approach. To achieve this goal, the building utilizes passive solar heating with thermal mass features, clerestory windows, dual glazing, heavy insulation, high fans to draw out warm air, steel



enroll their three to four year olds in classes that are designed to promote independence, and improve social and movement skills. Activities may include crafts, storytelling time, playtime and simple learning concepts. Classes for four to five year olds emphasize age appropriate activities, which include drama, music and games to develop socialization skills, hand/eye coordination, and motor skills. Many of these classes help children prepare for pre-school and kindergarten, and many more are offered for

framing, radiant floor heating and deciduous trees in the south patio. Council District 8 Construction and Conveyance Tax Funds and Park Trust Funds made the \$1.5 million project possible. Provisions for a future 1,000 square foot classroom, as described in the 2002 Master Plan Amendment, have also been made as part of this project.

We would like to thank the ECC staff for their assistance with the "Kids Korner" Open House event planning process. The staff was extremely helpful, full of ideas,

*Making flowers at the
Evergreen "Kids Korner"
Open House event.*

Continued on back page

Baby Boomers on the Rise

By Diane Lindberg
Community Services Supervisor, Office On Aging

Did you know that by 2010, 23% of the population in Santa Clara County will be over the age of 55? Did you know that the fastest growing senior segment, those who are 85 and older, will triple in number?

In anticipation of the first wave of "baby boomers", those reaching age 60 this year, and our expanding older senior population, the City of San José and the Santa Clara County Department of Aging and Adult Services developed a joint aging strategic plan, "Community for a Lifetime - A 10 year Strategic Plan to Advance the Well-Being of Older Adults in Santa Clara

County". The plan identifies and addresses strategies for meeting the needs of older adults.

The planning process consisted of identifying older adult needs and then developing strategies and potential funding sources to address these needs.

Over 600 seniors participated in a scientific phone survey and 365 individuals participated in two huge Town Hall Meetings, conducted in the five predominant languages in the County. Additional input was gathered from over 20 focus groups and by interviewing over

50 leading experts. The top two needs that surfaced are more information and assistance about available resources to older adults and improved transportation.

Councilmember Ken Yeager and County Supervisor Don Gage co-chaired a 50-member Strategic Planning Advisory Group who worked closely with a consultant firm in the development of this plan. Both the San José City Council and the County Board of Supervisors adopted the plan in February 2005. You can access the plan and the executive summary on the PRNS website.

Summer Camp is open to everyone and anyone. There are over 200 camps throughout the City ranging from your traditional day camps to sports camps to specialty camps, such as theater, dance, Super Silly Science, Teen Extreme, and many more.

For a listing of sites and schedules, please obtain a Citywide Activity Guide from the Marketing and Events Office or visit our Web site at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/cagindex.htm for more information!

The "Ultimate" Summer Experience

By Demetria Adams
Neighborhood Newsletter Staff

Did you know that our Department offers some of the most innovative and creative Summer Camps west of the Mississippi?

This month, we focus on the "ultimate" experience, The Spot Youth Center's, **Teen Extreme Camp**. This one-week camp is an adrenaline-pumping adventure for youth ages 11 – 17. It is a chance for youth to test their limits on entertaining and energetic activities which include a rock climbing

escapade, a kayaking excursion, a paintball challenge, a video scavenger hunt, a wild game of bowling, and mastery of Artopia. This "way cool" summer camp is offered Monday – Friday, June 27 – July 1 and August 1 – August 5 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for a nominal fee.

Is your teen ready for an adventure of a "summertime"? Teen Extreme Camp is the place to be this summer. For more information, call The Spot Youth Center

at (408) 268-4921.

Our Department offers over 200 unique summer camps ranging from the traditional day camp, to sport camps, and specialty camps for children and youth. Contact your local center or take a look at the summer edition of the Citywide Activity Guide available May 2, 2005. You will find a camp that suits your child no matter what their interest is!

International Month to Boost Employee Morale

By Cathy Morrey
Play, Hope, and Joy Booster Club Member

Diversity brings new and innovative ideas into the workplace. In the US, practically everyone's family can be traced to a unique culture. An employee may be from a foreign country, their grandparents or even their great grandparents are most likely from other countries. Others may even be descendants of

the Native American Indians. Having an International Month where employees can decorate their work areas with items from their culture. During the month, allow time for a viewing of the work areas where the employee can explain about his/her culture and how they themselves or their relatives

came to America. Employees can also share snacks that are unique to their culture. You can give prizes for the best decorations. When people from different cultures get to know one another, they value and understand each other, which can lead to a more successful team.

They came to play! National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in San José

By Donna Hepp, Neighborhood Newsletter Staff

The National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (NJWBT), also known as the "Sweet Sixteen", was in San José, March 11 - 13, 2005. The event brings the top sixteen junior (high school age) wheelchair basketball teams together to compete for the national title. The Department's Office of Therapeutic Services and Far West Wheelchair Sports hosted the event, along with the support of San Jose State University's Kinesiology Department. A special thank you to Andre Morrow and the Citywide Sports staff for their technical assistance at the event.

Teams were greeted with warm, sunny weather upon their arrival to San José on Wednesday, March 10. Diverse city teams came from coast-to-coast and were united in the mission to defeat the defending champion, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation (BORP) Bay Cruisers from Berkeley. The teams received a tournament invitation by winning their Regional and Conference competitions.

The tournament kicked off Thursday evening with opening ceremonies emceed by Dean Munro of the San Jose Sports Authority, Paralympic athlete Stephanie Wheeler and Councilmember Linda J. LeZotte. Our Director, Sara Hensley also attended the ceremonies and represented our Department. Directly following the ceremonies, Ms. Wheeler and Paul Jackson, Head Coach of the Golden State Road Warriors, treated athletes to a clinic.

The competition began on Friday morning with the top seeds

dominating their lower seeded rivals. The defending champions, number eight seed, Bay Cruisers barely held off opponents ZIA Hot Shots from New Mexico by a score of 48-40. Saturday's



action saw the emergence of a crowd favorite, the Milwaukee Wheelin' Wizzards, who overcame a 15 point deficit to defeat the number one seeded Lakeshore Lakers for a final score of 54-51.

Sunday's final four competition saw Lakeshore versus the number three seed, Minnesota, battle it out for the third place finish, and the number two seed, Long Island, going head to head with tournament sweethearts number four seed, Milwaukee, for the Tournament Title. Third place bragging rights went to Minnesota who finished with a 51-47 win.

The tournament championship game took place at 1:00 p.m. and was broadcast live on the National Wheelchair Basketball Association web site (www.nwba.org). The gym was standing room only as Long Island exhibited early dominance and controlled the game for the first 40 minutes. However, Milwaukee did not go down without a fight and pulled the game to within a four-point difference before the

Lightning put the game away for a final score of 48-37. Directly following the game, Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez joined the festivities to present a host of team awards and tournament MVPs.

As usual, PRNS hosted the event "in style" and received the following glowing words from Todd Hatfield, Director of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, "I would like to thank you, your staff and volunteers for the job you all did this past weekend. The attention to detail that the San José group brings to every event they do is unsurpassed. You all are a valued treasure to wheelchair sports and in particular the NWBA."

This event showcased our Department talents and provided opportunities to local youth with disabilities, while enlightening the community to the many achievements of wheelchair athletes. Many of the competitors have recently signed on to play college basketball at top universities, such as the powerhouses in the world of wheelchair sports the University of Arizona and the University of Illinois.

The Citywide Adapted Sports Team along with Far West Wheelchair Sports will host the 2005 Far West Games on May 19-21, 2005. Athletes from across the United States will come to San Jose City College and Camden Community Center to qualify for the national competition in Orlando, Florida and around the world. Do not miss this elite level competition and witness the exciting and fast-paced action of highly skilled athletes.

Volunteers are needed to help with this event.

For more information, please call the Adapted Sports Office at (408) 794-1443.

**GET INVOLVED
and
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DIFFERENCE!**

PRNS Sweeps CalFest Awards

The California/Nevada Festival and Events Association (CalFest) honored the City of San José - Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department with 13 awards at the CalFest Conference held at the San José Hilton the week of February 14. PRNS received 10 first place awards and three-second place awards for the San Jose Holiday Parade, Christmas in the Park and Downtown San José for the Holidays. PRNS received the awards based on program budget and marketing materials creativity. Below is a list of awards PRNS received:

First Place Awards

- San Jose Holiday Parade - Hat
- San Jose Holiday Parade - Advertisement/Newspaper or Magazine – The Wave Magazine
- San Jose Holiday Parade - Event Invitation – Tees for Toys
- San Jose Holiday Parade - Marketing Material
- San Jose Holiday Parade - Tabloid/Program – Parade Program

- Christmas in the Park - Promotional Poster – 25th Anniversary Poster
- Christmas in the Park - Logo Design - 25th Anniversary Logo
- Christmas in the Park - Souvenir Pin/Button - 25th Anniversary Pin
- Christmas in the Park - Other Merchandise (DVD) – Christmas in the Park: “The Making of a Tradition”

Downtown San José for the Holidays – Map – Holiday Map of Attractions

Second Place Awards

- San Jose Holiday Parade - Souvenir Pin/Button – Collectors/Volunteer Pin
- San Jose Holiday Parade - Rack Card
- Christmas in the Park - Best New Idea - “Santa Storytelling Time”

The move to the NEW City Hall is approaching quickly. This is a great time to begin making changes to any marketing materials you may have for your program(s).

The NEW City Hall address is:
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

If you have questions pertaining to the move, please contact Joe Charfauros at (408) 277-4284 or Rebecca Dominguez at (408) 277-4572.

How Well Do You Know Your Co-Workers?

By Cathy Morrey
Neighborhood Development Center

How often do you find yourself passing through the halls saying “hi” to your co-workers, but do you really know what they are excited about in life?

The Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) participated in a fun exercise led by Sedara Olker at the last staff retreat. Prior to the retreat, staff members wrote up their list of favorites. Their favorites were posted up on the walls at NDC, and we had to match the favorite item to the person. Here is your chance to guess some “favorites” of NDC staff members. Good Luck!

P.S Feel free to do this exercise with your staff as a team builder!

Favorite Hobby	Answers:
Auto Racing Favorite Car: Ferrari	Favorite hobby: Auto Racing - Bogart
Favorite Store: Scrapbook Store	Favorite vacation spot: Deb
Favorite Color: Ice Pink and Hot Pink	Salt- Sedara Olker
Favorite Hobby: Dancing (two staff members listed this)	Favorite drink: Margarita with Cynthia Bojorquez and Xochitl
Dream Car: A limo with someone to drive me around	with my hands- Art Cabagan
Favorite Hobby: Going to church	Favorite thing to do: Work
Favorite Food: Mahi Mahi Fish Tacos from South Beach Bar and Grill in San Diego - Cathy	Morrey
Favorite Thing to Do: Work with my hands	Tacos from South Beach Bar and Grill in San Diego - Cathy
Favorite Drink: Margarita with Salt	Favorite food: Mahi Mahi Fish
Favorite Vacation Spot: Britain	church - Tina Monarez
	Favorite Hobby: Going to
	Margaret Wagnert
	someone to drive me around -
	Dream Car: A limo with
	Montes
	Cynthia Bojorquez and Xochitl
	Favorite Hobby: Dancing -
	Hot Pink - Veronica Bailey
	Favorite color: Ice Pink and
	store- Shirley Mata
	Favorite Store: A scrapbook
	Gambelin
	Favorite Car: Ferrari - Annie
	Kit Kwan

Across:

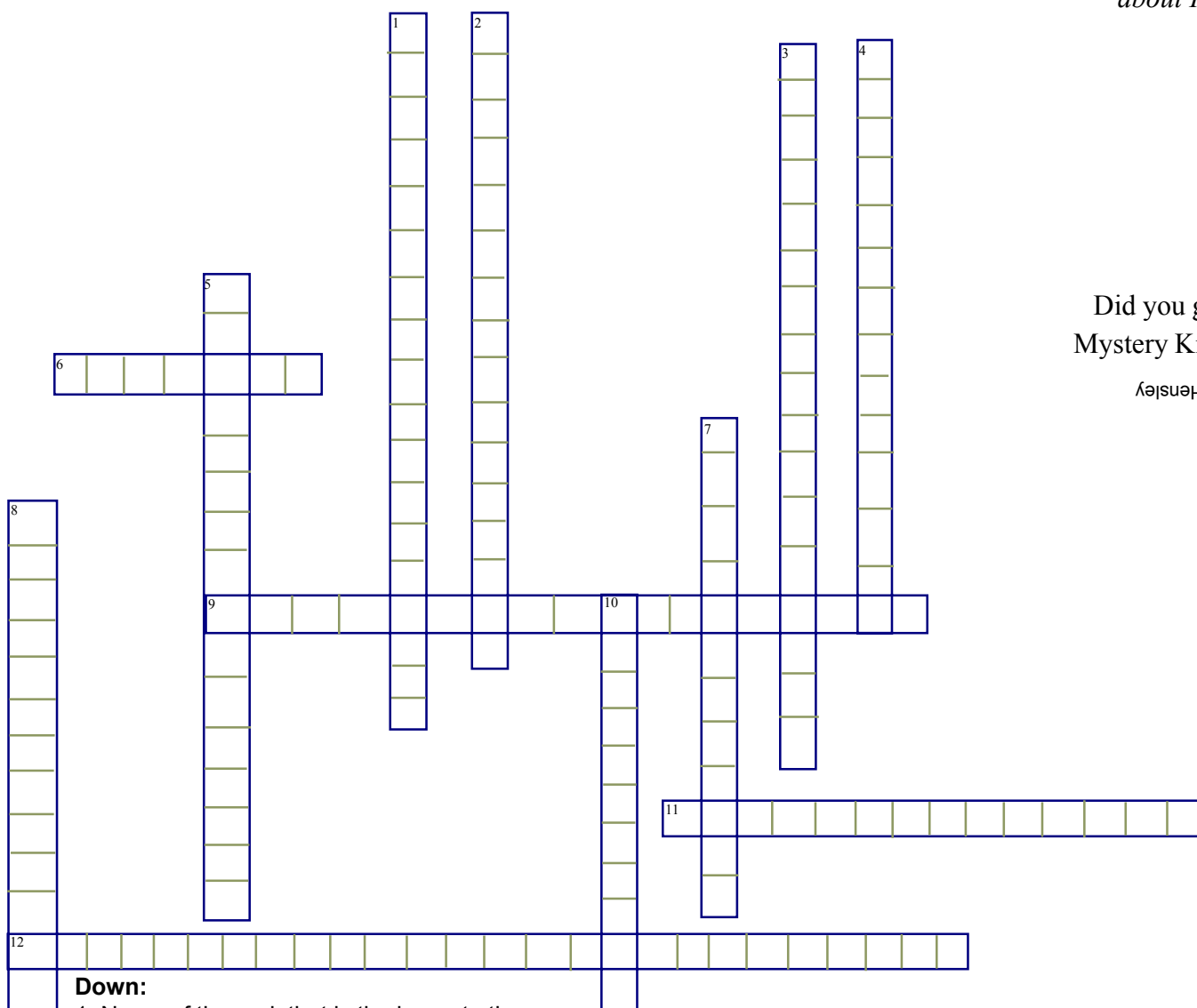
6. This Multi- Purpose Center hosted the City's First Annual Aztec New Year Celebration.
9. Children can learn to garden, feed the animals and become a junior entomologist at this working farm.
11. Dog park located in CSA 3.
12. Join a beginner or advanced roller hockey league at this location.

It's a Puzzlement

What do you really know about PRNS?

Did you guess the Mystery Kid's name?

Sara L. Hensley



Down:

1. Name of the park that is the home to the Children's Carousel at Arena Green.
2. The Earth Balloon is "handled" by this unit.
3. This City attraction was featured in The "Guinness Book of World Records."
4. The "center" opened with a big "splash" from a former councilmember.
5. City owned 9- hole golf course.
7. The city's largest regional park.
8. Park named after the founder of The National Farm Workers Union.
10. This City facility/ program is featured in an article in the March/ April edition of Delta Airline's

Policy Updates

Sign In Sheets Disclaimer

- o All information on sign-in sheets is considered public as a result of the California Public Records Act which states that any information collected or released at a public meeting must be made available to the public should they request said information.
- o NOTE - Include the following language on all public meeting sign-in sheets: Signing-in is voluntary and helps us notify you of future information. These sheets become public documents, and are available to the news media and others upon request.

E-mail/Internet Usage

- o The use of City computer equipment, electronic facilities, and electronic data is limited to official City purposes only.
- o Personal e-mail and non-City business related Internet use should not be conducted with City equipment.
- o Since the use of City computer equipment is provided for official City purposes only, employees should have no expectation of privacy in their use of e-mail or the Internet.
- o The policy states that the City reserves the right for any reason to access and disclose all messages and other electronic data sent over its electronic mail system or stored in its files.

Mileage Reimbursement

- o As of February 27, 2005, the City's mileage reimbursement rate has been increased from \$0.365/mile to \$0.405/mile, the current IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate.
- o To be eligible for mileage reimbursement, you must have a current City Driving Permit issued by the City's Safety Officer, and provide proof of possession of valid and current liability insurance as required by the State of California Vehicle Code Section 16451.

Seat Belt Use

- o Effective March 1, 2005, it is Department policy and State law that both drivers and passengers while traveling in a City vehicle shall always use seat belts.
- o The purpose of this policy is to establish mandatory seat belt usage as an organizational priority and designate responsibility for implementation and enforcement. The driver of the vehicle is responsible for enforcing seat belt use by all occupants. Managers and Supervisors have an obligation to encourage and routinely monitor usage.
- o The seat belt policy applies to all employees and occupants of any vehicle driven by employees,

including rentals and personal vehicles when used on official City business.

- o The policy will be enforced the same as other City and Department rules, and employees who violate it will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Employee Services

New Benefits Web Sites

- o Get the latest benefits and deferred compensation news, print out enrollment forms, view plan summaries and rates, and e-mail questions to the benefits team.
- o Two convenient options: Intranet at www.csj.gov/HumRes/benefits/ or Internet at www.sanjoseca.gov/employeeservices/subsurvey.asp

Citywide Directory Updates

- o Whether or not you're moving this summer, make sure that your information is current in the Citywide Directory.
- o If you need to add or update a listing, send an e-mail to "Directory Changes" with the following information: Name, working title, department, division (where appropriate), direct number and a secondary number (if available), and fax number.

Continued on page 11

*Have you ran out of time to go down to Employee Services? If so, there is a better way to get your questions answered more promptly! The City's Intranet Web site provides pertinent information to all employees. Create a shortcut to your desktop and use it to your advantage. The Web site is **www.csj.gov**. Click on Employee Services and your questions will be answered!*

Guess Who Has Been in the News?

The Mobile Recreation Program and the Gardner Community Center did an excellent job of promoting their very unique event to the media and audience. The "First Annual Aztec Calendar Celebration" took place at Gardner Community Center on Saturday, March 12. Over 1,000 people attended the event and it was covered by the following news organizations: The San Jose Mercury News "The Guides",

Janice Rombeck wrote a pre-story in her column, "Neighborhood Notebook." The Mercury News also made it their Local section cover story on Sunday. El Observador, The Willow Glen Resident, Bay City News, and Telemundo Channel 48 also covered the event.

PRNS in the News

Have you had an event where the media showed up and you wonder how they depicted

the event. The Marketing and Events Office (MEO) keeps copies of all PRNS news clippings. Please visit the Director's Conference Room at 4 North Second Street and take a look at the articles written regarding the work and events that PRNS is involved in.

Never underestimate the possibility of your event garnering media attention. The MEO can assist you in making your idea a news story and distributing the information accordingly.

Spring Gardening

By Joe Garvin

Community Gardens Staff



Now that spring is upon us, there is much activity in the Community Gardens across San José. The gardeners are weeding and preparing their garden plots for a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. The prominent plants grown in the gardens are vegetables.

There are three methods used by gardeners to grow vegetables. The first is to sow the seeds directly into the ground. The second is to plant the seeds in flats

and later plant the young seedlings into their garden plots. The third method is to take young plants and transplant them in the garden.

Examples of vegetables that gardeners sow directly are carrots, chard, onions, spinach, squash, and corn. Examples of vegetables best started in flats, to create a warmer environment and/or to control the watering, are bok choy, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce and bell peppers.

Eggplant, hot peppers plants, and tomato plants are usually transplanted into the garden plot.

In six to twelve weeks, as you drive around the City, take a moment to check out the wonderfully diverse bounty of vegetables grown in the Community Gardens.

Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer.

—Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

Policy *Continued from page 10*

Training Updates

To register for trainings, e-mail Bridget McKay or Nancy Thome with your employee ID# and the name of your Supervisor.

How to Effectively Use Volunteers (#809)

- o April 20, 2005, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Office on Aging
- o Learn the basics of volunteer recruitment, placement, supervi

sion, recognition and management of a volunteer program. You will also learn about the City's Volunteer San José Program.

Petty Cash Reimbursements and Cash Advances (#810)

- o April 27, 2005, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at Office on Aging
- o Overview of the "do's and don'ts" of petty cash reimburse

ment and cash advances. Participants will be introduced to the proper forms, procedures and policy guidelines for petty cash reimbursements and cash advances.

*Simon Cowell would
have a "field day" with
these two future
American Idols!*

PHJ Boosters are Back and We Want YOU!

The Play, Hope, and Joy Boosters (PHJ) is a volunteer work group that is dedicated to find ways to promote employee morale through fundraising efforts and events. With the success of these events and the assistance from committed volunteers, PHJ Boosters was able to plan a fun-filled Holiday Party, which was a huge success!

We are looking forward to our third PRNS Karaoke Night in May or June, and many other fun future activities. We would love to have your ideas and enthusiasm, with the ultimate goal of enhancing employee morale. Please join us on April 25 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Development Center for our first PHJ Booster Meeting of the year. You may RSVP with Dave Peyton or Lisje Archdeacon at 277-2741. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the fun!



Tina Monarrez, Community Activity Worker with the Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) and Michelle Estabillo, Secretary to Joan Carrico hitting those high notes at the last PRNS Karaoke Night.

*Look out Enrique...
here comes Steve!*



Steve Aponte, Recreation Leader with the Mobile Recreation Program, serenading and wooing the audience at the last PRNS Karaoke Night.



Tammy Sundquist

A Day in the Life of a Zookeeper

By Tammy Sundquist
Zookeeper, Happy Hollow Park and Zoo

When I tell people I'm a Zookeeper at Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, I get one of two reactions: Either my job is the greatest, or "what did I do to deserve" such punishment. Most people are unaware of the everyday operations that happen behind the scenes at a zoo. Most visitors' see us interacting with the animals or cleaning up after them. When in actuality, the majority of our day is spent taking care of both the animals and the facility. A Zookeeper is a jack-of-all-trades.

On a daily basis, exhibits are cleaned, animal behavior is monitored, and diets are made and distributed. Our work involves everything from keeping animal records to gardening. Records are kept on data such as, animal health, behavior, feeding, medications and weather conditions. Not only do we maintain the animals, but also the exhibits and surrounding areas. Zookeepers help repair and build animal enclosures, pick up litter and even wash windows.

You've heard of the mailman working come hail or

snow, it's the same for a Zookeeper. The animals don't know what day of the week it is, if it's a weekend, a holiday, 100° or windy and rainy. We come in, don our apparel (sometimes that means rain gear and boots) and continue with our duties to properly care for the animals that depend on us.

We are also constantly trying to think of new ways to encourage natural animal behavior. We hide food so the animals look for it, like they would in the wild. We fill the exhibits with different smells for them to investigate. Some may think of *See Profile on page 14*

*One Center's "Trash"
is Another Center's
"Treasure"*

PRNS Swap Corner – Used or New Items

You never know what you may find when you start asking. What some facility has a need for, other's may have a surplus. The **PRNS Swap Corner** is a one-stop-shop that will connect you with the latest office supplies, and office/recreation equipment offered by your fellow staffers.

Posting an ad is as simple as sending a brief description of what you have or need via e-mail to demetria.adams@sanjoseca.gov. Items submitted will be reviewed by the Neighborhood News Editorial Staff and followed with a confirmation e-mail if your ad will appear in the upcoming edition of Neighborhood News.

Where are they now?

Have you ever called a center or program looking for a person? "They no longer work here," is the response, to your surprise. We thought we could help you find the following people:

Employee	New Location	Previous Location
Art Catbagan 392-6771	Neighborhood Development Center,	Family Camp
Donna Hepp 277-2703	Marketing and Events Office,	Moreland West
Xochitl Montes 392-6771	Neighborhood Development Center,	Winchester SNI
Steve Ryan 277-4927	Gardner Community Center,	Watson Com.Center

Profile *continued from page 13*

these as “toys”, but we call it “enrichment”. Enrichment tactics are creative and challenging, but a very important part of caring for captive animals.

Besides working with the animals, we interact with the public. Providing good customer service, ensuring public safety, and answering questions are a big part of our job. Interactions with visitors help increase the public’s awareness of their importance in wildlife conservation.

While working with exotic animals is the most rewarding part of my job, the most difficult part is knowing that I’ll probably outlive them all. Special care is taken to provide the proper nutrition and preventative care, like vaccines and

regular check-ups. Some of our menagerie is even on glucosamine for arthritis-like symptoms. Something I doubt their wild counterparts live long enough to experience. In our care, they don’t have to fight for food or territory, or worry about predators or deforestation. Most animals do have a longer life span in captivity, but still are not as long as ours.

Zoo keeping can be a demanding job requiring dedication, commitment, and patience. Animals depend on zookeepers to survive in captivity. We provide a good quality life for captive animals, help educate the public on endangered species, and contribute to the preservation of wild animals and their habitats. It is a unique career with lots of

competition, and requires years of volunteering to gain experience, and usually a college degree in a science-related field.

Next time you visit a zoo and see a Zookeeper, think of how hard they work, how lucky they feel to be doing what they love, and their dedication to the animals’ welfare. If you think Zookeepers are lucky, consider volunteering and be a part of it.

About the author:

Tammy has been with the Happy Hollow Park and Zoo for five years and is originally from Spokane, WA. She earned a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies at Eastern Washington University and volunteered at an exotic cat sanctuary for three years prior to becoming a paid zookeeper.

Parks Open for Adoption

The Adopt-A-Park (AAP) program currently consists of **1,833** active volunteers who have adopted **150** parks, which include neighborhood and regional. There are currently **13** parks open for adoption (please see list). Volunteers care for their adopted area in the following ways: pick up litter, sweep courts and pathways, remove graffiti, pull weeds, rake leaves, care for trees, and report park hazards. To get involved, please call the AAP staff at (408) 277-4477 for assistance.

Biebrach Park (*Delmas & West Virginia*)
Brooktree Park (*Fallingtree @ PG&E easement*)
Cathedral Oaks Park (*Falcon Ridge Court & Falcon Knoll Drive*)
Columbus Park (*Spring & Taylor*)
Gleason Mini Park (*Gleason and San Tomas Aquino Parkway*)
Lake Cunningham Park (*Capitol & Tully*)
Overfelt Gardens (*Educational Park & McKee*)
Pfeifer Park (*Pfeifer Ranch Road & Boulder Mountain Way*)
Rubino Park (*Desmet Drive off Rubio Circle*)
Selma Olinder Park (*William Street & Brookwood*)
Shady Oaks Park (*Coyote @ Broderick*)
Cilker Park (*Winfield Boulevard & Chenoweth*)
Townsend Park (*Townsend & Aravjo*)

Attention staff at
4 North Second Street

Another file cleaning day
and purging is planned.

April 25-29

We have scheduled another purge week for the end of this month - April 25-29. The bins will be delivered on April 22 and picked up on May 1st. **High participation is expected of all employees moving to the New City Hall.**

Go through your files and purge **non-records** that aren’t actively helping you.

Generally, only one copy of a document is designated as the official record copy. All other copies of that document fall into the category of non-record. Inconsequential material and publications, transitory material, and so forth are also considered to be non-records.

City of San Jose delegation march to the Capital

CPRS (California Parks and Recreation Society's) conference attendees marched to the capital steps in Sacramento during their conference visit. They wanted to let elected officials know about funding needs for Parks and Recreation.

In his final message as the California Parks and Recreation Society's (CPRS) President, Barry Weiss included a tribute to the importance of the work we do in parks, recreation and neighborhood services.



CPRS Members March

Barry Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of San Carlos
2004-2005 CPRS President
California Parks and Recreation
Winter 2005 issue, page 70

"No profession impacts as many people as parks and recreation. We are the only profession that can decrease juvenile crime and increase property values. We decrease health care costs, protect the environment and strengthen safety and security. We help young people develop into healthy, caring, competent adults. We develop independent living skills with our seniors and (persons with disabilities). We support economic development and strengthen community problem solving. We truly create community through people, parks and programs."

PRNS Karaoke Night

\$3.00 in advance

\$5.00 at the door

All proceeds go to the Activity Fund.

Wednesday, May 25th

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Mexico Lindo Restaurant

11 Race Street

(corner of The Alameda)

Contact Demetria Adams

at 277-2466 for ticket information.



City of San José PRNS-CPRS conference attendees march to the State Capitol for a rally concerning budget cuts.

A Soulful Journey, A Taste of the South

By Queen Ann Cannon
Alum Rock Youth Center Staff

If you missed the Second Annual Black History Program, "A Soulful Journey, A Taste of the South," event at Alum Rock Youth Center, you missed a **Treat!** This was an inspirational evening enjoyed by over 250. They came for a taste of the South and left with a world of knowledge and inspiration.

The Southern comfort food was prepared by over 34 chefs and included black eyed peas, corn bread muffins, greens, ham hock, gumbo, chicken, seafood, macaroni and cheese, fried, baked and roasted chicken, potato, green salad, macaroni salad, jambalaya and many more delicious dishes typical of the South. Now lets talk about desserts which included sweet potato pies, pound cakes, rum cakes, peach cobbler, banana pudding and bread pudding. Yes it was a mouth full of treats, which left everyone with lifted spirits and full stomachs.

Not only were our mouths and bellies treated well, our ears and eyes were privileged too. The **Iota Phi Theta, Step Team** was a treat as we watched all five members step in perfect sequence. College Stepping is a long tradition within **The Devine 9**, recognized Greek fraternities. It is a cultural appreciation of the Black College youth environment. The Steppers stomp out a message, combining movement, speech and music. College Stepping goes beyond entertainment to convey the dedication and commitment it takes to work together, teamwork, and pursue one's vision with excellence. They let the youth know that to become a fraternity stepper they must be in college and do well.

The Iota Steppers have a reputation for encouraging and mentoring youth to include college in their plans. The Iota Phi Theta

Steppers competed and won First Place in San José's competition and Second Place in San Francisco. They plan to compete in Oregon and, of course, win at the national level. Those of us who saw them at the event know they can do it; they are young, dedicated, giving, Black men who are excellent role models for all of our youth.

Additionally, we had the pleasure of listening to the beautiful sounds of **Saylah & Manner** and the trio of **Amazing Grace**. The experienced and youthful **Duwan** and his young jazz musicians, **The Life Force Trio**, mellowed us all out as we rounded our evening.

Our senses were not the only lucky ones', our soul was invigorated and inspired through soulful rapping and poetry messages from **Dr. David Sharp**. Dr. Sharp took us on a journey of soulful thinking with a combination of tap, jazz and singing the Blues and moving to the rhythm. Dr. Sharp talked about growing up Black in the south, he spoke about acting Black, pretending not to be black and back to being proud of those Black Southern sounds that came from his mother, grandmother and other relatives.

The history, the present, and the future...we stood together as a

Continued on page 17

Anti-discrimination Policy

It is the City of San José policy to afford all persons equal opportunity by prohibiting discrimination in City programs against any person on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, sexual orientation, actual or perceived gender identity, disability, ethnicity, or national origin. It is the City's policy goal to expand opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in City services, programs and facilities.



"They came for a taste of the South and left with a world of knowledge and inspiration."



Soulful Continued from page 16

community and asked for support to make sure that this journey was a positive influence for our young people. Support came from many places and people like **Ed Solis, Danny Perez, Lilly Arenas, Tina Grijalva, Corina Herrera, Kevin Hirabayashi, Chong Lam, Aiko Shirakawa, Tomas Loredo, Hai Nguyen, and Sis Ses.**

Thanks to **O.T.S.'s Dan Greeley and Liz Best**, our Clean Slate partners, **Charlie Hall and Juan Avila** and the many volunteers they enrolled to assist with logistics, **Hank Lopez staff, seniors, and volunteers, Sam Garcia, Tina Wong-Erling, Ralph Molica, Martha Esquivel, Savanna Mopress, Luz Amaton, Kea Kong, Carolyn Johnson, and Ta'Lana Caston** who not only helped with the



Support Team: Lili Arenas, Luc, Sam Garcia, Talana Caston and Zeke

event planning, but also cooked and enrolled her father to bake pounds cakes. Ta'Lana's macaroni and cheese dish was a huge success.

We also extend our thanks to our external partners that volunteered their time and skills to the success of the event: **The National Hispanic University staff, Denise Olivarez from First 5 of Santa Clara County** and her crew who provided information to the community on their services. Several vendors donated gifts for the free raffle, such as **Hank Gibson, Sandra Sample, and the Shoe Palace.**

The list of "thank you's" seems never ending, but people, partners, and businesses deserve proper recognition for their commitment to the community and youth. A very special thank you to the community volunteers who participated from day one: **Aminah Jahi and Rene Perry.** I am really thankful for Rene and Aminah's encouragement. **Hewitt Joyner Jr.**, our Emcee, did a terrific job with the program, and handled all interruptions that came his way like a pro. What made it very special is that Hewitt

just retired after 18 years with the City of San José.

To all who came, who cooked, who entertained, who volunteered, who participated in any way, if you did anything at all - you made this year's event better than last year's, and made it possible for next year's to surpass all events.

The food and the Black History Program provided a perfect setting for this enriching, diverse gathering of community. We came together, working hand and hand, to create this free joyous event. We live in a circular world, he who teaches - learns, he who learns - teaches, we're all learning from each other.



IOTA PHI THETA Step Team

José Villanueva will be doing the Aids Lifecycle 7 day cycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles on June 7-14. He is looking for sponors. José can be reached at 221-4977 (AGP number).

Parque de Padre Mateo Sheedy Celebrates Late Priest's Commitment to Community

By Gwen Parker

Neighborhood Newsletter Staff

Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services will join members of the Washington Strong Neighborhood and Sacred Heart parishioners to honor the memory of a neighborhood hero, Padre (Father) Mateo Sheedy, by dedicating a park in his name-sake.

Parque de Padre Mateo Sheedy will open its doors to the community on Saturday, April 30 at 1:00 p.m. The park is the top priority of the Washington Area Community Coalition, part of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI).

"We're not a church. We're not a school. We are a community," were familiar words of the late Monsignor Mateo Sheedy, who served Sacred Heart Parish of San José for twelve years. This philosophy guided Padre Sheedy's work in the neighborhoods surrounding Sacred Heart. To honor his life, community leaders and parish members requested that the park planned for Floyd and Locust Streets be named after the Monsignor, who died on October 20, 2000 at the age of 49.

"This gathering place, created by a community vision, is a wonderful extension of Padre Mateo Sheedy's desire to connect people and create community," said Vice Mayor Chavez.

"There are many leaders, but very few with the charisma, enthusiasm, and commitment that Padre Mateo had for his community," said parish member Mari Castañeda. "For Padre Mateo, the only way a community could break away from the cycle of

poverty was by educating its children, and he made this belief his purpose in life."

He raised 1.5 million dollars to restore the neighborhood church, Sacred Heart Parish, damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. In 1992, he spearheaded a fundraiser for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Guadalajara, México. In 1997, together with PACT, Padre Mateo founded the "Sacred Heart Computer Resource Center."

In 1998, after many years of advocating for a full tuition fellowship to Santa Clara University, the San Juan Diego Scholarship was established. In 2001, the year before his death, Padre Mateo founded two additional projects: The Italian Gardens, an affordable housing project now home

to 148 families, and the "Sacred Heart Nativity Middle School," a school for working-class boys. He was also at the forefront of the "Downtown College Prep" project, a charter high school for at-risk working-class students.

Padre Mateo was, and continues to be highly respected by his community. He will always be remembered as someone who helped a community at the margins of Silicon Valley, dream the impossible. The community takes pride in breaking ground for their new park, named in his honor.



Alternative Formats

This publication can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audio tape, or computer disk. Requests can be made by calling your local PRNS facility or 408-277-2930.

Manager's Award of Excellence

Gregg Owens - Happy Hollow Park and Zoo

Gregg Owens, Zoo Manager for Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, is a very resourceful and dedicated manager. His thorough knowledge and professional expertise as the Zoo Manager enables the zoo to be operated in a manner that meets the strict United States Department of Agriculture and American Zoo and Aquarium Association standards. Through Gregg's leadership, Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is a fully accredited zoo, which is a prestigious standard within the industry.

Additionally, Gregg is an exceptional project manager, who consistently meets budget and timeline restrictions. He is a fiscally responsible manager who is completely dedicated to the financial success of the organization.

Gregg's love for the health and welfare of the zoo's animals permeates his entire division benefiting the community of San José by providing exceptional animal exhibits that entertain and educate guests.



Gregg Owens

STAR Employee Recognition Award February: Dan Greeley Alum Rock Youth Center

Dan Greeley has been providing outstanding therapeutic programs for youth and adults with physical and mental disabilities for over six years. The past year and a half, Dan has been running a number of programs out of Alum Rock Youth Center with dedication and enthusiasm. Dan continues to

provide excellent customer service and a high level of programs, despite our challenging economic times.

Additionally, Dan's commitment to youth and adults shows by his deep interaction and relationship with the participants in his programs.



Dan Greeley

STAR Employee Recognition March: Tony Casarez - Ballfield Maintenance

Tony Casarez is an Athletic Stadium Groundskeeper who has lead responsibilities over the PAL maintenance staff as well as the Ball Field Maintenance staff. He supervises four staff that provides ball field maintenance at 32 different fields located throughout the City. He also supervises a crew who provides all maintenance responsibilities at PAL Stadium.



Tony Casarez

*Continued on
back page*

TEAM Employee Recognition Award January, February and March

For the 2004 season, Jeremy Shoffner (pool manager), Tom Mestaz (pool manager), Liz Travis (assistant pool manager) and Momi Morrow (recreation leader) ran a flawless summer swim program! These stellar staff members created an Audit Team, created swim lesson standards, developed training programs and a

staff training week, implemented inclusion training and support system, created an email notification system for staff, started a pool newsletter and implemented a staff team building event called the Float-A-Thon.

Due to their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm they increased customer satisfaction by

15%, increased inclusion support services by 112%, maintained FLAWLESS fiscal procedures, created staff unity, and provided an exceptional swim program.



Fair Swim Center Staff: Tom Mestaz (pool manager), Jeremy Shoffner (pool manager), Liz Travis (assistant pool manager) and Momi Morrow (recreation leader, not pictured) ran a flawless swim program!

CIP Projects Awarded

Los Paseos Youth and Family Center

(A) 08/23/04 / (B) 08/23/04

LoBue Park Pathway

(S) 02/28/05 / (B) 02/28/05

Cahalan Park Hardcourt Reconfiguration

(S) 03/15/05 / (B) 03/15/05

Municipal Golf Course Cart Barn Conversion

(S) 05/16/05 / (B) 12/14/04

A=Award

B=Bid

Nominee Recognition

Our Department would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the following individuals who were nominated for the February STAR Employee Recognition Award and March STAR and TEAM Employee Recognition Award. Their commitment and contribution to the communities they serve do not go unnoticed. Angela Marttgnetti - Senior Recreation Leader - Alviso Community Center, Betty Lieu - Recreation Leader - Berryessa

Community Center, Yves Zsutty - Trails Program Manager - Community Facility Division, Lisje Archdeacon - Senior Office Specialist - Community Services Division - Foothill Region, Valerie Riegel - Zoo Curator - Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, Adriene Braddock and Richard Rocha - Solari Community Center, Jeanne Kondo, Virginia Shields, Denise Esparza, and Lupe Hernandez - Lenninger Reservation

Staff, Andre Morrow, Joe Albayalde, Hayves Streeter, Armando Avila, Hal Spangenberg, Cisco Martin Del Campo, and Teresa Quijance - Citywide Sports Office. Please take a moment to recognize others who step above and beyond their typical job duties on a daily basis.

Recognition Continued from page 19

Tony consistently works with his staff to make sure the work they do is set to a high standard, often times stepping in to offer extra help. Tony is recognized by the local athletic community as an expert in ball field maintenance, and is often called upon to provide advice and direction

on improving field conditions. The Public Works Department recently incorporated his suggestions into their specifications for future ball field development. Tony's above and beyond attitude can be seen when looking at the fields at PAL stadium. He keeps those fields in

perfect shape, especially considering that while use has drastically increased, his available resources have decreased.

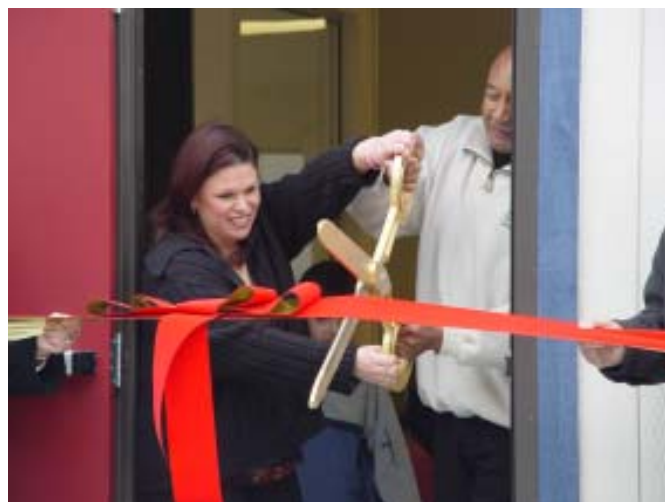
ERCA/GONA Continued from front page

community group meetings, adult education classes, and during the day, the school may want to use the center. We plan to make it an open center for all."

ERCA and GONA joined forces to create one neighborhood voice, known as the Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition (EGOPIC). EGOPIC serves as the SNI Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) with the focus on completing projects identified in their neighborhood. EGOPIC envisioned neighborhood hubs where community development activities and other services would strengthen and support the neighborhood associations and residents. This vision has become

a reality through a strong partnership between EGOPIC, the Oak Grove School District, the City of San José Department of Parks,

Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency.



Tami Moore, President of ERCA/ERCA and Councilmember Williams cut the ribbon at the ERCA Center.

Evergreen Expansion Continued from page 5

and had the Center and residents best interest in mind. A special thanks to **Patty Rivera** at ECC for going above and beyond the scope of her normal work duties. Patty went as far as to recruit her family to assist with set up and clean up. She also contacted all of the "teachers" to partake in the event, coordinated the activities, and pretty much did most of the set up. We hold her in high regards and commend her for her dedication. She is GREAT!

Overall, there is a true team environment at the Center. **Rhonda Vargas** was busy assisting with set up, rolling out tables, chairs, blowing up balloons and so much more. **Angie Alfaro** provided great leadership by entrusting her team to "run" with the event while acknowledging their hard work and dedication. It is clear that the ECC staff bring "play, hope and joy" to Evergreen

residents. It was a pleasure to work with them, and we look forward to future endeavors. Our sincere gratitude goes out to them.

The Neighborhood News is published every odd month, as a record of accomplishments, events and staff achievements. **The submission deadline date is the 1st of each month.** If the 1st falls on a weekend, then the previous Friday becomes the deadline date. **Submit information to:** demetria.adams@sanjoseca.gov fax (408-279-0626) or regular routing mail.